

Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Answer key

Chapter 1:

- Task 1: The strategies which are likely to be most helpful to students are 3,4,6,7,8 and 9.
- Task 3:
Text A is targeted at an educated, but not highly specialized, audience, while text B is directed at experts. Text A was published in *Scientific American* and text B in *AIChE Journal*.
 1. Given the audience of text A, there is little technical vocabulary in the first paragraph, apart from *desalination* and *distillation*. Text B immediately jumps into the narrow topic and employs quite a lot of technical vocabulary with which many of us may be unfamiliar. This, however, is reasonable since the journal readers are presumed to have some background knowledge of the topic.
 2. Text A provides quite a lot of background material and does not provide too much narrow detail before reverse osmosis is introduced. Little detail on the process is given compared to Text B, which talks about network configuration and optimization.
 3. Sentence 7 in Text A provides a definition. Most of Text B is a description and could be considered an extended definition.
 4. Both texts are well written. The flow of ideas is good, largely following an old-to-new pattern of information flow. The texts move from general to specific, even though they begin at different levels of specificity.
- Task 6:
Greeting: from “Dear Mr Lee” to “... Operations Engineering”
Preparation for bad news: from “We have now finished...” to “... to limit the number we could accept”
Bad news: from “While your background...” to “...not been accepted.”
Close: from “Given your excellent qualifications...” to “Sincerely”
- Task 7:
Description of a situation: Sentences 1-3
Identification of a problem: Sentences 4-7
Description of a solution: Sentences 8-11
Evaluation of the solution: Sentence 12
 1. In such a short text, it is hard to say precisely how serious the problem is based on the amount of detail. The use of the word *threat* in Sentence 4, however, does suggest that this is not something to be taken lightly. If the freshwater supply is being threatened, then researchers have good reason to be alarmed.
 2. The author suggests that the solution is a good one because it is simple and inexpensive. Note, however, that the author uses *can dispose* at the end and so seems cautiously optimistic.
 3. Answers will vary.

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- Task 8:

1. The audience is likely educated readers, but not completely knowledgeable readers, as explained in the response to the second question.
2. The author provides content to fill in potential or assumed gaps in the background. For example, the author does not assume readers know much about Ghana (e.g. its location, exports, and economy). The author also seems to think that readers would not know that the capital is Accra. The author assumes readers may not know much about e-waste since a brief definition of e-waste is given that clarifies that the waste is still usable in part of totally. The author point out that the waste has advantages as indicated by the points about job creation, recycling, and information technology needs, which many readers may not know. The author might also question whether readers know what can be recycled and what is toxic. The author assumes readers can imagine that potential dangers of an e-waste center being located near a market.
3. The author wants to inform readers about the potential benefits and hazards of e-waste recycling as well as to prompt them to think about who bears responsibility for the possible negative consequences of this activity.
4. In Sentence 7, *however* is used to indicate that there is a downside to e-waste recycling.
5. *This growth* in Sentence 3 refers to the growing economy, which is expanding by 10% annually. *These processes* in Sentence 10 are the retrieval and recovery of metals. Finally, *this approach* in Sentence 12 refers to the installation of modern recycling technology. These particular expressions establish a content connection to a previous sentence and contribute to the strong movement or flow of ideas. They help the author move in and out of sentences. (This concept is discussed in more detail on pages 30-48 of the textbook).
6. The author seems to prefer the second solution to the first since the first one is rejected as creating another problem, namely who is responsible for the cost. This strategy of offering a solution that will be rejected is not uncommon in academic writing. Such a strategy may cause the second solution to be viewed more favourably by readers.
7. If the author believed the second solution would not work, then some explanation as to why should be included. This would then be followed by yet another alternative solution. The author could have written something like this:
Although this effort is attractive, it may not be feasible to eliminate all harmful metals and materials in electronics.
This sentence alone would not be enough. Readers would likely expect an explanation of the challenges of eliminating the harmful metals and materials.

- Task 10: Points to consider:

- Think about whether the features might be relevant to or typical of writing in your field.
- Think about whether you want to incorporate any of these features into your own writing or whether you should perhaps lessen their use.

- Task 11:

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| 1. tolerate | 5. constitute | 9. decreased |
| 2. investigating | 6. eliminate | 10. considering |
| 3. determine | 7. reached | |
| 4. developed | 8. maintain | |

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- Task 12:
 1. created, developed, devised, proposed
 2. encountered, faced
 3. raised, introduced
 4. appeared, emerged, materialized, surfaced
 5. examined, investigated, analysed, considered

- Task 13:

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. an integral part of2. nearly3. considerable4. robust5. increasing	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. intensified7. have insufficient8. rarely occur9. enlarged to facilitate loading and unloading
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For sentences 6-9 there may be other possible answers.

- Task 14: (first part)
 1. The model can be used to optimize the water supply.
The water supply can be optimized using this model.
 2. The bridge collapsed for many reasons.
Many reasons have been offered to explain the bridge collapse.
 3. Some forms of traditional medicine frequently employ both herbs and animal products.
In addition to herbs, animal products are frequently employed in some forms of traditional medicine.
 4. To date, no comprehensive study has examined how conflict influences trust and respect in a group.
To date, little research has examined how conflict influences trust and respect in a group.
 5. Some studies in epidemiology have concluded that moderate alcohol consumption results in a lower risk of heart disease.
Some studies in epidemiology have shown that moderate alcohol consumption lowers the risk of heart disease.
 6. Developed in the 1980s, data mining collection methods aim to understand and make money from the massive data sets collected from electronic devices.
Developed in the 1980s, data mining collection methods are designed to understand and profit from the massive data sets collected from electronic devices, such as supermarket scanners, weather buoys, and intelligence satellites.